The Repreſentation of the Committee of the Aſſembly for the North of Scotland, *to the Privy-Council of that Kingdom.*

With ſome Queries, *by another Hand, propoſed to ſuch* Church-of-England-*Men as are Advocates for the Scots Epiſcopalians.*

THE publiſhing of the following *Repreſentation*, &c. ſo ſuddenly after the *Reflections upon the Scots Epiſcopal Queries and Proteſtation*, may perhaps be look'd upon by ſome as an Effect of Intemperate Heat: To ſuch I ſhall only ſay, That the unwearied Endeavours of our Adverſaries to miſrepreſent the Church of *Scotland*, and the Intereſt which they make amongſt thoſe of the higheſt Dignity of the Church of *England*, to ſolicite their Majeſties againſt the Scots Presbyterians, and lay ſuch Miſrepreſentations before them as Matters of Truth, renders it highly neceſſary to publiſh the following Paper, that the World may have a farther taſte of the diſingenuous Practices of the Scots Epiſcopalians, and that the moderate Church-of-*England*-Men may themſelves be Judges, Whether thoſe of their Communion, who ſolicite their Majeſties againſt the Church of *Scotland*, do not therein prefer their own peeviſh Humour to their Majeſties Intereſt?

To the Right Honourable the Lord High Chancellor, and remanent Lords of their Majeſties Privy-Council of Scotland. *The Committee of the General Aſſembly for the North,*

Humbly ſheweth,

THAT whereas the laſt General Aſſembly of this National Church, did grant Commiſſion to a competent Number of Miniſters and Elders for viſiting the North, impowering them to purge and to plant Churches on the other ſide the River *Tay*; and to do and determine in ſeveral other Matters, according to the Tenour of their Commiſſion, which was drawn up and adjuſted to the ſatisfaction of their Majeſties Commiſſioner preſent in the Aſſembly in all Points. Conform whereunto we having made a Progreſs through the North; and in all our Actings, which were ſincerely deſigned for the Advancement of the Goſpel, the Quiet of the Church, for the promoting of their Majeſties Intereſt, and the Publick Peace kept within Bounds preſcribed to us. Yet the Refractorineſs of ſeveral Perſons juſtly cenſured by us, with ſome other Occurrents, wherein we conceived the Authority of their Majeſties Laws and Government, as well as that of the Church, to be deeply concerned, do oblige us to lay before your Lordſhips the Particulars following.

First; That notwithſtanding ſeveral Miniſters have, after groſs and uncontrovered Scandals objected and proven againſt them, been cenſured with Depoſition, yet they preſum'd to Preach, and exerciſe their Miniſterial Function, in contempt of all Authority, both Civil and Eccleſiaſtick: Such as Mr. *Geo. Graham*, late Incumbent of *Innerarity*, depoſed for habitual Drunkenneſs, aggravated with moſt ſcandalous Circumſtances. Mr. *John Leſly* at *Rothes*, depoſed for habitual Swearing, and horrid Curſings and Imprecations. Mr. *James Smith* at *Killimore-Weſter*, for habitual Drunkenneſs; and Mr. *George Seaton* at *Auchterleſſe*, for habitual Drunkenneſs, ſupine Negligence, and malicious ſtirring up of Variance and Strife among his Pariſhioners and Neighbours.

Secondly; That though upon exact trial, it was found that ſeveral Miniſters and Preachers had intruded into Churches vacant, not only againſt good Order, but to the hindrance of the regular planting of the ſaid Churches, and therefore were diſcharged to preach any more there until orderly admitted, yet they continued to preach ſtill, in contempt of the Sentences paſt againſt them; ſuch as Mr. *James Gordon* Younger, at *Fowrane*; and others: Which Contempt ought ſo much the more to be noticed by your Lordſhips, that now through the Care of this Commiſſion, who have taken in thirteen Diſſenting Miniſters to the Presbyterian Miniſters formerly in thoſe Bounds, Presbyteries are duly eſtabliſhed within convenient Precincts; ſo as all the Churches vacant in theſe Parts may, upon an eaſy Application, be regularly provided.

Thirdly; That ſeveral Miniſters deprived by your Lordſhips for their Diſaffection, do nevertheleſs, contrary to your Lordſhips Sentence, and to the Act of Parliament 1690, whereby they are ordained firſt to qualify themſelves in the Terms of the ſaid Act, continue to preach in vacant and other Churches, in contempt of the ſaid Act: Such as Mr. *John Matters*, late Incumbent at *Ceres*, intruding himſelf upon *Elliot*. Dr. *John Nicholſon*, late at *Errol*; Mr. *Wil. Rattray*, late at *Cargill*; Mr. *David Anderſon*, late at *Perth*: All intruding upon *Kilſpindy*, preſuming to preach there, and at other Places.

Fourthly; Notwithſtanding of the Abolition of Prelacy, and the ſettling of Presbyterian Government in this Church, yet nevertheleſs Perſons have received Orders from ſome of the late Biſhops, and thereupon uſurped the Miniſterial Function, and intruded into Churches: Such as Mr. *John Auchterlonie* in *Aberlenno*, and Mr. *Gideon Guthry* Diaconat, in *April* laſt.

Fifthly; That notwithſtanding our Commiſſion was legally given and authoriſed by the General Aſſembly of this National Church, eſtabliſhed by Law, and countenanced by their Majeſties High Commiſſioner; yet at *Aberdeen* twelve Miniſters, whereof one only was cited before us, took the boldneſs to give in a Paper, under the Title of *Queries*, plainly queſtioning, not only our Authority, but the Authority of the Law whereby the Government of this Church is ſettled: And though they got a very moderate and rational Anſwer, yet they proteſted againſt us, and appeal'd from the Commiſſion, and that in the Name of the whole Miniſters henorth *Tay*, though they ſhewed no Warrant from them. And further, they appeal'd to their Majeſties Protection, albeit never ſo much as cited as ſaid is, and that they themſelves have not ſo much as taken the Oath of Allegiance to entitle them to this Protection. So that the Contrivance was evidently Factious, to ſtir up and animate all ſuch as are diſaffected againſt the Government, both Civil and Eccleſiaſtick. And thus at *Inverneſs*, fourteen other Miniſters did officiouſly give in a Paper of Adherence to the *Aberdeen* Paper, and made their Proteſt and Appeal in a ruder manner.

Sixthly;

Sixthly; That when the Committee did ſummon Witneſſes, particularly againſt Mr. *Andrew Abercromby* at *Tarlen*, a Perſon infamous through all that Country, by reaſon of his ſcandalous and flagitious Life, yet the Witneſſes were kept back; which may be of bad Example, unleſs your Lordſhips preſcribe ſome compulſory Method in time coming.

Seventhly; That notwithſtanding that Preſbyterian Government is ſettled by Act of Parliament, and the Exerciſe thereof lodged in the Hands of the Miniſters and Elders therein ſet down, yet many of the Epiſcopal Clergy in the North, do uſurp Eccleſiaſtical Authority, and keep their own Meetings, where they licenſe Preachers, order Admiſſion of Miniſters, ſupply Vacancies, and do other Acts of Order and Diſcipline, contrary to the Law, and tending to the eſtabliſhment of a Schiſm in the Church, and to the viſible Prejudice of their Majeſties Intereſt.

Eighthly; That the Havers of Keys of ſeveral Vacant Churches, did refuſe to make them forth-coming to the Committee; which was both againſt Law, and your Lordſhips frequent Acts and Orders: And thus the Keys of the Kirks of *Elliot* and *Kilſpindie* were refuſed by . . . . Havers thereof.

Ninthly; That in all Churches where the Worſhip of God is performed, there ought to be no diſorderly Interruption, upon any Pretence whatſoever: Yet in the Church of *Old Aberdeen*, ſeveral inſolent Perſons have preſumed to interrupt the Worſhip of God, by offering at their own Hand another Piece of Worſhip moſt unſeaſonably, to the manifeſt profanation of the Publick Worſhip, and great diſturbance of the Congregation, who gave no Compliance to the ſaid Diſorder: Which being manifeſtly Factious, and in all probability fomented by Perſons diſaffected, doth not only occaſion great Scandal, but is very like to grow to higher Degrees of Inſolence if not timely reſtrained.

And ſeeing that the happy Succeſs that we have had, thrô the Bleſſing of God, in theſe Parts, by taking in and gaining a good Number of Miniſters, and diſpoſing others to follow their Example, and by recommending our Moderation to all the Well-affected in thoſe Parts, and ſettling ſeveral Churches and Presbyteries, to the great Benefit of the Goſpel, and the Advancement of their Majeſties Intereſt: Which in a manner wholly depend upon your Lordſhips interpoſing in the Premiſſes, and giving unto the Church and its Authority, that Countenance and Aſſiſtance which the Law ordains, and your Lordſhips know to be ſo neceſſary.

May it therefore pleaſe your Lordſhips to take the Premiſſes into your ſerious Conſideration, to apply ſuch due Remedies to the above-mentioned Evils as the Law allows, and your Lordſhips ſhall find moſt proper, eſpecially ſince we can confidently aver, that any Oppoſition or Diſcountenance we met with in thoſe Parts, was only from Perſons notoriouſly diſaffected to their Majeſties Government, and principally upon that Account; and that where-ever Miniſters, partakers of the preſent Church-Government, are ſettled in the North, or have acceſs to preach in thoſe Bounds, there's a ſenſible growing of Affection among the People, to the Civil as well as to the Eccleſiaſtical Government.

And your Lordſhips Petitioners ſhall ever pray.

Some

Some Queries *propounded to such* Church-of-England-*Men as are Advocates for the Scots Epiſcopal Clergy.*

1. WHether the King and Parliament of *Scotland* have not as much Power to ſettle ſuch a Government in the Church of *Scotland*, as is moſt ſuitable to the Inclinations of the People, as the King and Parliament of *England* have to ſettle ſuch an one in the Church of *England*?

2. And if ſo, How it comes to paſs that they offer to meddle in Affairs belonging to the Church of S[illegible]*d*, and ſolicite to have a Party ſtill co[illegible] not only in Benefices, but in the Exerci[illegible] of Eccleſiaſtical Juriſdiction, who refuſe to qualify themſelves according to Law?

3. Whether they would not highly reſent it, if the Church of *Scotland* ſhould ſolicite for ſuch things in favour of the Diſſenters from the Church of *England*?

4. Seeing the Church of *Scotland* does no ſuch thing, whether Scots Men have not juſt Cauſe to ſuſpect that thoſe Engliſh Men who are ſo bold as to interpoſe in Affairs that are already determined by the King and Parliament of *Scotland*, have a mind to revive the old Pretenſions of our Crown's being held in Fee of theirs, and that our Church ought to be ſubject to theirs?

5. Whether or not, ſeeing that Matter hath been determined long ago by the Point of the Sword, Preſcription of Time, and the Union of the Crowns, the Kingdom of *Scotland* may not expect as much Juſtice from the King and Parliament of *England*, againſt ſuch Incendiaries, if they ſhould make Application for it now, as they obtain'd againſt others of the like ſort, both in Church and State, within the Memory of Man?

6. Whether the moderate Church-of-*England*-Men have not reaſon to ſuſpect that Part of the Plot reaches them, ſeeing they were alſo perſecuted under the Notion of *Whigs* and *Trimmers* in the late Reigns, when the Scots Presbyterians were under the Hatches, eſpecially ſeeing the Scots Epiſcopalians are generally in the late King's Intereſt; and that ſome of their greateſt Patrons here, and who have lately writ to the King, according to their falſe Repreſentation of Affairs, are thoſe who endeavoured to have ſuch Men only in Places of Power and Truſt, as concurr'd in the Murder of my Lord *Ruſſel*, and ſuch other worthy Church-of-*England*-Men in the late Reigns?

7. Whether it's poſſible that they can be ſo far impos'd upon, as to think that the Scots Epiſcopalians decline Conformity to Presbyterian Government in Point of Conſcience; when it appears by Parl. 2. Act 1. *Car.* II. that it was the Opinion of the Party then, that the ordering of the Government of the Church did properly belong to his Majeſty and Succeſſors; and that the Repreſentatives of the Party did offer to ſubmit to, and concur with Presbyterian Government, by their *Formula* in 1690, if their ſigning of the *Confeſſion of Faith* could have been diſpens'd with?

8. Whether the Scots Epiſcopalians be not guilty of very groſs Diſſimulation, in pretending a Deference to the Civil Government, when they act ſo contemptuouſly againſt the Acts of Parliament and Council in ſo many things, as appears by the Committee's *Repreſentation*?

This being judged ſufficient at preſent, thoſe who deſire a farther Account of the Party, are referred to the Anſwer to the *Scots Presbyterian Eloquence*, the Continuation of it, the *Scots Epiſcopal Innocence*, and the *Reflections on their Queries and Proteſtation*, all ſold by the Bookſellers of *London* and *Weſtminſter*.

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